

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LAHORE 01416 211625Z

45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SSC-01 DRC-01 EB-11 /156 W

----- 052315

R 201131Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9761

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAHORE 01416

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: PUNJAB GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

REF: LAHORE 1392

BEGIN SUMMARY: NEW PUNJAB PROVINCIAL CABINET WAS SWORN
IN NOV 20 IN LAHORE. COMPOSITION OF CABINET REFLECTS
POLITICAL COMPROMISE AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER
CHANGE. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING MEN WERE SWORN IN AS MINISTERS IN NEW
CABINET OF MUSTAFA KHAR MORNING NOV 20, IN ORDER OF
SENIORITY:

MIAN MOHAMMAD AFZAL WATTOO - COMMUNICATIONS AND EXCISE
AND TAXATION
MOHAMMAD HANEEF RAMAY - FINANCE AND TRANSPORT
CHAUDHRI MUMTAZ AHMAD KHLBVN - LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION
DR. ABDUL KHALIQ - INDUSTRIES - IRRIGATION AND POWER
NABDUL HAFEEZ KARDAR - EDUCATION AND REVENUE, COLONIES AND
CONSOLIDATION
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LAHORE 01416 211625Z

CHAUDHRI MOHAMMAD IRSHAD - AGRICULTURE

CHAUDHRI TALIB HUSSAIN - HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MALIK MUKHTAR AHMAD AWAN - LABOR, SETTLEMENT AND REHABILITA-
TION
MALIK HAKMEEN KHAN - JAILS AND AUQAF
SHAUKAT MAHMOOD - HEALTH

2. PRESS WAS TOLD AFTER CABINET MEETING FOLLOWING CEREMONY THAT CHIEF MINISTER KHAR WOULD RETAIN, AT LEAST FOR MOMENT, PORTFOLIOS OF HOME, SERVICES AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, AND FOOD AND COOPERATION. KHAR ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT FOUR OR FIVE MORE MINISTERS, INCLUDING ONE WOMAN, WERE EXPECTED TO BE APPOINTED IN VERY NEAR FUTURE.

3. NEW CABINET INCLUDES ALL BUT TWO OF PREVIOUS MINISTERS; FORMER AGRICULTURE MINISTER QURESHI, WHO WAS MADE GOVERNOR OF PUNJAB ON NOV 12 (REFTEL), AND FORMER COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS MINISTER TARI, A CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE IN PREVIOUS CABINET. TWO NEW FACES IN CABINET, HUSSAIN AND MAHMOOD, ARE BOTH MPAS WHICH, ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES NOV 20, IS ONE OF "FIRM" CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN CABINET (KHAR AND MINISTER WATTOO, WHO IS PRESIDENT OF PUNJAB PPP, ARE NOT MPAS). MINISTER HUSSAIN, WHO HAILS FROM LYALLPUR, WAS, UNTIL RECENT REORGANIZATION, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO GOVERNOR. MINISTER MAHMOOD, WHO HAILS FROM SHEIKHUPURA, IS SECRETARY OF PPP PARLIAMENTARY GROUP IN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY.

4. COMMENT: AS INDICATED REFTEL, FORMATION OF NEW CABINET GENERATED MAJOR STRUGGLE AMONG PPP POLITICIANS, ON BOTH PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS. APPARENT CONTESTANTS WERE CHIEF MINISTER KHAR AND FINANCE MINISTER RAMAY. HOWEVER, IN THIS INSTANCE, GOP HEALTH MINISTER SHEIKH RASHID REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED RAMAY AND FORMER CHIEF MINISTER KHALID IN THEIR EFFORTS TO "CLEAN UP" PUNJAB POLITICS. LATTER GROUP ARGUED THAT MINISTER TARI AND HIS TOWGHS HAD BROUGHT EXTREMELY BAD NAME TO PPP IN PUNJAB. KHAR, ON OTHER HAND, ARGUED THAT SOME MUSCLE WAS NECESSARY IN PUNJAB POLITICS AND ENLISTED ASSISTANCE OF GOP FINANCE MINISTER MUBASHIR HASSAN TO COUNTER SHEIKH RASHID ON THIS ISSUE AS WELL AS ON SEPARATE BUT PARALLEL CONFRONTATION OVER REORGANIZATION OF PROVINCIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LAHORE 01416 211625Z

PARTY. HOWEVER, SITUATION IS, TYPICALLY, FAR MORE COMPLEX, BECAUSE RASHID IS NO FRIEND OF RAMAY'S.

5. COMPOSITION OF NEW CABINET INDICATES THAT KHAR HAS ACHIEVED FAIR SUCCESS IN HIS EFFORT TO BETTER CONTROL BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PARTY. HE WAS ABLE TO KEEP PUNJAB PPP PRESIDENT WATTOO IN CABINET, AND INDEED MAKE HIM MOST SENIOR MINISTER AFTER KHAR, BUT THIS MAY COST WATTOO HIS

PARTY POST AFTER FEBRUARY. HE WAS ALSO ABLE TO KEEP HIS CLOSEST ALLY, MINISTER KAHLOAN, IN CABINET. "GOONDA MINISTER" TARI WAS ONLY APPARENT CASUALTY TO KHAR (AND ONE HE COULD PROBABLY AFFORD, SINCE IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT TARI WILL NOT BE USED FOR SAME PURPOSES OUTSIDE CABINET). TARI HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN CALLED TO RAWALPINDI TO BE LECTURED BY BHUTTO. REMAINING IN CABINET AT SLIGHTLY DEFLATED LEVEL IS FINANCE MINISTER RAMAY, WHO CAN BE COUNTED UPON TO KEEP CAREFUL EYE ON KHAR. KHAR EXPLAINED DEMOTION OF RAMAY TO NO. 3 AS NECESSARY SINCE WATTOO, AS PPP PRESIDENT IN PUNJAB AND CENTRAL COMMITTEEMEMBER, "COULD NOT BE JUNIOR TO ANY OTHER MINISTER." THIS CONTENTION WAS CONVENIENTLY IGNORED IN PREVIOUS CABINET. HOWEVER, WHEN PRESSED BY JOURNALISTS, KHAR ASSERTED THAT OPTION "WOULD BE OPEN TO THE PARTY" TO DECIDE BY MID-FEBRUARY WHETHER WATTOO SHOULD RETAIN CABINET OR PARTY POST. CHIEF LOSER IN BATTLE JUST FINISHED WAS SHEIKH RASHID. ONE CONSEQUENCE OF HIS LOSS IS APPARENT STRENGTHENING OF GOP MINISTER MUBASHIR HASSAN. HOWEVER, MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN LAHORE EXPECT FURTHER STRUGGLES OVER NEXT THREE MONTHS AS POLITICIANS CONTINUE TO JOCKEY FOR POSITION.

KING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, REORGANIZATIONS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LAHORE01416
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LAHORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731123/aaaaaqqd.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LAHORE 1392
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Jan-2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <23-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUNJAB GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION
TAGS: PINT, PK, (WATTOO, MIAN MOHAMMAD AFZAL), (RAMAY, MOHAMMAD HANEEF), (KAHLBVN, CHAUDHRI MUMTAZ AHMAD), (KHALIQ, ABDUL), (IRSHAD, CHAUDHRI MOHAMMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005